Passages from the Holy Quran

5: Sura Al- Ikhlas (112)

1. Say: He is Allah, the one and only; 2. Allah, the eternal, absolute; 3. He does not beget, nor is He begotten; 4. And there is none like Him.

Main Theme

Main theme of this early Makkan is God in himself in terms of His unique person. The main theme of Surah Al-Ikhlas revolves around the pure monotheism of Allah and His uniqueness, highlighting His absolute transcendence and independence. According to Islamic belief system Allah's Essence (Person) is beyond human perception that's why His unique attributes and qualities are mentioned in the Quran to introduce God. Tauheed or Oneness of Allah is the most important attribute of Allah.

- This passage declares that God is the One and the Only who is unique in all aspects. It outlines the most fundamental and cardinal aspects of Tawhid (oneness of God). It out rightly declares God's unity and emphatically negates the false belief of God having ancestors and descendants as He is the One and the Unique. This theme is so important that the Quran repeatedly mentions this: "and your God is one God" (2:163, al-Baqarah) and "God! There is no God but He" (2:255).
- Allah is the Absolute which refers that all things and beings are dependent on Him and He is not dependent on anyone. He is free from any need, help, support, protection or provisions for His existence.
- He is the Self-Sufficient. It further highlights God's unity by saying that God's nature or person can never be compared to anyone throughout the universe. It also mentions God's freedom from time and space by saying that he has always been and will always be there because He is the Eternal.
- It further highlights God's unity by saying that God's nature or person can never be compared to anyone throughout the universe.
- Allah is Unique because there was no one like Allah in the past, there is no one like Him in the present, and there will never be anyone like Him in future as well. He is Unique, both in His Essence and His attributes. This way, the passage crystallizes the belief of Tawhid.

Importance of the Theme

- The main theme of Surah Al-Ikhlas highlights the unique oneness of Allah and His attributes. It serves as a cornerstone of Islamic theology and encourages believers to develop a deep understanding of God's transcendent nature and the profound concept of Tawhid.
- Theme of this passage purifies Muslim's belief in Tawhid so the passage is named al-Ikhlas (the purity of faith).
- The uniqueness and supremacy of God highlights human inability and limitation before their Lord. Thus, it eliminates all forms and degrees of shirk or associating partners with God.

- Muslims recite this surah in daily prayers in order to reiterate rejection of shirk. It is so important that the holy prophet declared it equivalent to one third of the Quran.
- Belief in Tawhid, in turn affects the conduct of Muslims as they develop a strong sense of God's presence and knowledge. Strong belief in Tauheed makes a believer Self accountable for his deeds and actions and he tries his level best to shun all vices and secrets openly or secretly. He realizes that Allah knows the hidden and manifest. He knows all our actions, thoughts, and secrets of our hearts. A believer must seek beneficial knowledge from Allah and should never be proud of his knowledge.
- The theme is important for Muslims as it crystallizes the belief of Tawhid and trains them to condemn shirk.
- There is repetitive mention of God's authority, unlimited knowledge and powers in order to strengthen the faith of its readers.
- A believer must realize that only Allah is the Absolute, the Self-subsisting and Independent. They should realize their weaknesses and should never be proud of their worldly power and knowledge. Those who are given worldly authority must realize their responsibilities and consider them in service of humanity as a trust by Allah. Humans are vicegerents on Earth. They are given limited power, authority and knowledge to test their behavior. They are supposed to use their knowledge and power for the wellbeing of humanity and other creations of Allah.
- This passage reminds Muslims that God alone is to be worshipped and no authority can be compared with him by any means. A Muslim always trust in Allah and does not come in pressure of any worldly authority while expressing the truth. He becomes fearless as he believes that Allah is the only Protector. Muslims seek Allah's protection by reciting this passage.
- Belief in tauheed makes a believer virtuous, upright, obedient, brave and courageous. He becomes free from jealousy, envy, and greed. He refrains from adopting unfair means to achieve success.

Subject Specialist (O/A LEVEL Islamiyat)